

THIS IS A SPECIAL TWO MONTH COMBINED ISSUE.

MONTGOMERY

February/March 2020

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MT

Breeze



PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

THE 3RD QUARTER REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS WILL BE DUE FEBRUARY 1ST

MFD issues guidelines for open burning season

Winter is winding down and the Fire Dept reminds all to be safe.

All of your home heating sources and smoke/carbon monoxide detectors should have all been inspected and maintained as needed, stay warm when outside, don't over do it when shoveling, ect.

As of press time, no pond ice is safe!!

Open burning season starts Jan 15.

Call 862-4505 to obtain a burning permit.

Permits Are Required

Get a permit from the local fire dept. Fire Chiefs determine when it is safe to conduct open burning on a daily basis. Weather conditions change rapidly, especially in the spring. Permits can be rescinded if conditions change suddenly, making it unsafe to burn. According to Department of Environmental Protection regulation (310 CMR DEP 7.07), open burning must: be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings; be conducted between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from January 15 to May 1; and take place on the land closest to the source of material to be



burned. You must also be sure air quality conditions are acceptable for burning by calling the Massachusetts

DEP Air Quality Hotline at (617) 556-1021 or by visiting the MassAir Online website at <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/MassAir>.

Only Certain Materials Can Be Burned

- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
- Agricultural materials such as fruit tree and bush prunings, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for disease control.
- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

Burning Leaves and Other Materials Is Prohibited

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.

Please turn to page 6

Town Clerk *NEWS*

Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday May 4th from noon to 7:00 PM. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday May 18th. The following will be positions that will be on the ballot for voting: Selectman for three years, Assessor for three years, Treasurer for three years, Tax Collector for three years, Library Trustee for three years, School Committee for three years, Trustee of the A.P. Pettis Fund for three years, Moderator for one year and Tree Warden for one year.

If you would like to take out papers for any of these positions please pick up a paper from the front table at the town hall. The last day to obtain nomination papers is **March 14th** and the last day to submit to Town Clerk is Monday May 16th by 5:00 PM. Any questions please let me know.

Judy Murphy,
Town Clerk
413-862-3386 x3

State Presidential Primary

The State Presidential Primary is March 3rd from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM. The Early Voting days are Tuesday February 25th and Thursday February 28th from noon until 4:00. If you have any questions contact Judy Murphy Town Clerk at 413-862-3386 x 3.

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

Audrey Hepburn

Important numbers

FIRE EMERGENCY 911
AMBULANCE 911
STATE POLICE 911

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 862-4037

GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL 685-1102
GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL 685-1202
GMS ATTENDANCE 685-1201
LITTLEVILLE ELEMENTARY 685-1301

TOWN HALL OFFICE 862-3386

Listen to the following extensions of each office.

townhall@montgomeryma.gov

Administrative Secretary Hours, Tuesdays &
Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FIRE DEPT: 862-4505

FIRE CHIEF - CHRIS GALIPEAU 862-4599

TOWN CLERK - JUDY MURPHY 862-3386 ext 3
or direct line 642-6927

Office hours are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each
month from Noon - 4:00. Or you may call for an appointment.

POLICE DEPT:

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE CHIEF -

PAULA CHAPMAN Home 862-4949

Office 862-3386 ext 5

TAX COLLECTOR - JANE THIELEN 862-3386 ext 1

or direct line 642-8139

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER -

PHIL CAMP 862-4976

SELECT BOARD:

DONALD WASHBURN 862-3301

MIKE MORRISSEY 862-3386

JACOB CHAPMAN 862-4949

Meetings for the Select Board are held at 7:00 p.m. every
other Thursday.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

MADELYN AUSTIN 862-4004

mrrrr@verizon.net

LIBRARY:

LIBRARIAN - PAULA LONG 862-3894

montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com

HOURS: Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Thursday 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS:

Meetings of the Board of Assessors are held on the 1st &

3rd Wednesday of each month from 8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Please call 862-3386 ext 2 or direct line 642-8105 for an ap-

pointment. Assessors' Clerk hours 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of
each month from Noon - 4 p.m.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION -

PAIGE LALIBERTE, Chairman 862-3245

The Conservation Commission meets on the first Monday of
each month.

COUNCIL ON AGING 862-3386 ext 6 or 642-8143

STATE REPRESENTATIVE LINDSAY SABADOSA:

info@lindsaysabadosa.com

(413) 539-8599

February Calendar

Feb. 1 3rd Quarter Real Estate Tax Bills Due
Feb. 5 Noon - 4 pm - Town Clerk Hours - Town Hall
Feb. 5 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
Feb. 7 9:30 - 11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
Feb. 11 Recycling day
Feb. 11 10:00 am - COA Coffee Hour - Town Hall
Feb. 12 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
Feb. 13 7:00 pm - Selectboard Meeting - Town Hall
Feb. 14 9:30 - 11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
Feb. 19 Noon - 4 pm - Town Clerk Hours - Town Hall
Feb. 19 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
Feb. 21 9:30 - 11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
Feb. 25 Recycling day
Feb. 25 10:00 am - COA Coffee Hour - Town Hall
Feb. 26 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
Feb. 27 7:00 pm - Selectboard Meeting - Town Hall
Feb. 28 9:30 - 11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall

March Calendar

Mar. 4 Noon - 4 pm - Town Clerk Hours - Town Hall
Mar. 4 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
Mar. 6 9:30 - 11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
Mar. 7 5:45 pm - HS Penny Social - Town Hall
Mar. 8 2:00 am - SPRING AHEAD! Daylight Savings Time starts
Mar. 10 Recycling day
Mar. 10 10:00 am - COA Coffee Hour - Town Hall
Mar. 11 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
Mar. 12 7:00 pm - Selectboard Meeting - Town Hall
Mar. 13 9:30 - 11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
Mar. 14 5:45 pm - SNOW DATE HS Penny Social - Town Hall
Mar. 18 Noon - 4 pm - Town Clerk Hours - Town Hall
Mar. 18 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
Mar. 20 9:30 - 11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
Mar. 24 Recycling day
Mar. 26 7:00 pm - Selectboard Meeting - Town Hall
Mar. 27 9:30 - 11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
Mar. 24 10:00 am - COA Coffee Hour - Town Hall
Mar. 25 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall

Condolences to

Steve and Christina Pierce on the loss of his mother,
Mary Jane Pierce on January 22 in Westfield.

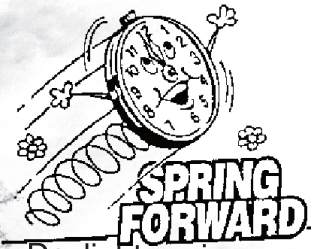
MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

Editor: T.Lak 413-237-2818

Helen Allyn * Chris Brown * Laurie Flechsig * Paula Long * Julie Pike
* Jane Thielen

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

The Grille is *the place* to meet your neighbors!



Daylight saving
time 2020 in
Massachusetts will
begin at 2:00 AM on
Sunday, March 8

THE SEASONS CHANGE BUT THE ONE CONSTANT IS THE GREAT FOOD AT THE MONTGOMERY GRILLE!



mmmm...hot
soup! Good to
the last drop.

**Montgomery
Grille**

AT THE MONTGOMERY MARKETPLACE

Hours:
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
5:30 am to 2:30 pm
Saturday and Sunday:
6:00 am to 2:30 pm
Lunch starts 11:00 am

46 Main Rd, Montgomery, MA
862- (FOOD) 3663
NEW HOURS: 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

Not too early to watch out for deer ticks

For February and March

Start Spring by attending a Garden Symposium. Information at Montgomery Library and WMMGA.org.

Last month I wrote about winter seed sowing. I want to report that I am attempting to start 7 different seeds; spinach, scallions, leeks, kale, beets, broccoli and Swiss chard. I will report the outcome in April.

February is the month to: Rotate houseplants weekly to keep them from leaning towards the light; with above freezing temperatures, deer ticks can be active and carry

GardenNews by Chris Brown



Tick-Borne Disease (TBD's); at end of Feb., sow onions, leeks and celery for transplanting to garden in May.

March is the month to: thin crowded vegetable seedlings to promote air

circulation; avoid pruning maple or birch trees which "bleed" when pruned in late winter/early spring; start asparagus beds from year old plants called crowns; Mid-march, start broccoli, cabbage and kale indoors, transplant outdoors in 4 – 6 weeks; Perhaps the most important lawn mower component is a sharp blade.

(Information taken from UMass calendar).

CREAMY TOMATO BASIL SOUP

Thank you Kate Griffen for this recipe).

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Tbsp. olive oil | 2 cloves garlic, pressed | 1 lg. shallot, diced |
| 2 – 28 oz. cans crushed tomatoes | 1 Tbsp. sugar | 2 tsp. kosher salt |
| 1 ½ cup chicken or vegetable stock | ½ tsp. dried oregano | Several grinds of pepper to taste |
| 1 cup ½ & ½ 12- 15 large fresh basil leaves, chopped | | |

In Dutch oven or heavy-bottomed pot, heat over medium heat. Add shallot and saute till translucent. Add garlic and saute another 30 seconds. Add crushed tomatoes, juice and all, stock, oregano, sugar, salt and pepper. Bring to a low simmer. Cook uncovered, for 15 minutes or until it has thickened. Add ½ and ½, basil and season to taste with salt and pepper. Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 5 days or in the freezer for up to 3 months.

CARAMEL CORN

Thank you Jeanne Aras for this recipe).

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 6 qts. popped corn | 2 cups packed brown sugar | 1 cup butter, cubed |
| ½ tsp. baking soda | ½ cup corn syrup | 1 tsp. salt |
| 3 tsp. vanilla extract | | |

Place pop corn in a large bowl and set aside. In a large sauce pan, combine brown sugar, butter, corn syrup and salt. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Boil for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla and baking soda. Pour into 2 greased 13 x 9 in. pans. Bake uncovered at 250 degrees for 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes. Cool completely. Store in airtight containers.

FEBRUARY/MARCH RECIPE

Notes from the Montgomery Police Chief

If you have a "paper license" issued through the Montgomery Police Department that has not been entered into CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) – at least four months before you need to renew your F.I.D or L.T.C. – please e-mail me at police@montgomeryma.gov, or leave a message at my home phone number 862-4949 – leave your first and last names (spell if not simple), date of birth and the date your license was issued so I can locate your file in the Town Hall.

When I have office hours – which is normally every other Thursday as listed in the Mountain Breeze – I will take a picture of your current license and forward it to CJIS – they will upload the information and you can do a renewal from your current license.

When you come to renew or do a new application – don't bring a picture – I have a camera, will take your picture and uploaded it directly into the computer. The biggest hold up is still fingerprints – it is currently taking 6-8 weeks after they are submitted before I hear on the status. Sometimes they cannot find our old cards or electronically done fingerprint and new card is needed to be processed. If that is the case, I will let you know.

The Police Department office is located in the basement of the Town Hall. If you are unable to come down the stairs, let me know and I will make accommodations to meet you in the library.

Paula L. Chapman

Administrative Chief of Police for the
Town of Montgomery

OFFICE HOURS: 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm

The office is in the basement
of the Town Hall

February 6	February 20	
March 5	March 19	
April	April 16	April 30
May 14	May 28	
June 25		
July 9	July 23	
August 6		

Annual Penny Social highlights MHS calendar

WINTER GREETINGS from your Montgomery Historical Society planning team! Happy Valentine's Day – by next issue (April), most likely we'll be more than ready for SPRING'S arrival!

The **annual PENNY SOCIAL** is coming soon... **SATURDAY, MARCH 7!!** We're also saving a "snow date" of **March 14**, in case the weather on the 7th doesn't cooperate. The doors will open at 5:45 to give people a chance to purchase their penny cards (25 cents per card of 25 tickets), view the items being offered, choose a seat, and get some refreshments before the start time... **The fun kicks off at 6:30 p.m.** We're asking you to **save the date(s)** on your March calendar and come to the Penny Social for an entertaining evening of "food, fun, and fellowship!" Our "regular" attendees have found it to be a great way to "shake the winter doldrums" and get out of the late-winter slump that often happens!

Next, the committee is asking for help in gathering items to be "auctioned" off at the Social. Are you a fan of Marie Kondo, the tidying-up guru? Are you looking at things in your home that may no longer be of interest? Well, we'll be happy to have **your like-new or gently-used items for auctioning** at the Penny Social. Or perhaps you might put together a **meal-in-a-basket** (spaghetti dinner, breakfast items, "tea-time" offerings, gardening tools/seeds, etc.) to donate to the Social. How about things like Christmas gifts you might have received but don't foresee ever using, or unused appliances in good condition – we'd be happy to have them. Bet with a little imagination, we could all come up with something to donate for this fund-raiser. (Proceeds of our annual fund-raisers support scholarships for Montgomery high school graduates and donations to other town organizations – Firemen's Association, Library, etc. --

Historical Happenings



who are raising funds for worthy causes.) There will even be special bidding for the younger ones who come with their parents. Some items geared toward the kids will be offered for only the kids to bid

on. (Consequently, donations of NEW or GENTLY-USED items for the kids would be appreciated.)

We'll also be **inviting local businesses to donate gift certificates or product** to be awarded as door prizes or raffle prizes during the Social. If anyone in town would like to promote their services or business in this way, please call one of the committee members (Laurie @ 862-8095, Patty @ 862-3830, or Julie @ 862-4539) and we will be happy to pick up your donation from you.

On the day of the Penny Social, we will be at the Town Hall from 2:00-4:00 p.m. setting up for the event, and will be pleased to accept townspeople's donations at that time. If that is not convenient for anyone, please call one of the committee members mentioned above to make arrangements for us to pick up your donations from you.

Because the Mountain Breeze is covering both February and March in one issue, we will not have a chance to remind you again of the Social, so it is important that you **mark down both March 7 and March 14** so you won't miss out on the fun! We all hope to see you there! Come on out for the fun and help us raise some funds!

PLANNING AHEAD: The annual Roast Pork Supper will once again be held in April – most likely April 18 or 25 – at Montgomery Town Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. Following the meal, we will have a guest speaker. Further details will be shared in the April issue of the Mountain Breeze, but here's your chance to save the tentative date(s) on your calendar!

The Historical Society's display case at the Montgomery Library has a new display! The latest collection presented for your viewing pleasure is called "Winged Things" and include angels, butterflies and birds to direct our thoughts to the warmer weather to come! Hope you'll all have an opportunity to visit our library, borrow a good book, and check out the display while there. Note: We are still looking for the loan of items or collections for display at the library in the future. Please call Laurie (862-8095) to schedule your exhibit for the display case!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Jeanne Aras
Jennifer Arvanitis
Henry Bisbee IV
Chris Brown
Ryan Bucko

Fran Bush
Roger Chapman
Dan Flechsig, Sr.
Nathan Galipeau
Tom Gil
Bill Hughes
Charles Kenyon

Geraldine Larrabee
Donny Masciadrelli
Nicholas Moses
Michael Shelnut
Nancy Spencer
Dale Stanisewski
Paige Stomski

Pete Wilcox
Tim Wolcott

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Cheryl & Donny Masciadrelli
Julie & Bob Pike
Karen & Dennis Wassung

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Jenn Albano
Colleen Bean
Steven Brzoska
Peyton Bucko
Alex Chapman

Jacob Avery Chapman
Joseph Croteau
Pauline Croteau
Bob Dowd
Justin Fernengel
Makayla Fernengel
Wayne Fowles

George Galipeau
Lynn Gebo
Bob Hyjek
Linda Hyjek
Charlie Kenyon
Sandie Mann
Andrea Moses

Charles Peckham
Bennett Rogers
Benjamin Senecal
Jason Stomski
Kathleen Stomski
Jane Thielen
Rachel Ward

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

None

• MFD issues guidelines Continued from Page 1

How to Safely Ignite and Tend the Fire

An adult should always be present during open burning. Children and pets should be kept a safe distance away. Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively largewood. Parts of a discarded Christmas tree can be used. Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high. Burn one small pile of material at a time and slowly add to it. This helps to keep the fire from getting out of control. Select a burn location away from any utility lines.

Fires Must Be Attended Until Extinguished

An adult must attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.

Have Fire Control Tools Handy

Have fire extinguishing materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes. The water supply can be a pressurized water fire extinguisher, a pump can or a garden hose. Test the water source before igniting the fire. You do not want to find out that the water is off or that the hose is cracked when you need it.

Watch the Wind and Be Prepared to Extinguish All Open Burning

Be prepared to extinguish the fire if winds pick up or the weather changes. Use common sense. Don't wait for the fire department to contact you to say that it has become unsafe to burn. Most open burning gets out of control during a sudden wind change.

Call For Help Immediately

If a fire gets out of control, call the fire department immediately. Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself and others or any fire damage to your home.

People conducting illegal burning, or who allow a fire to get out of control, may be held liable for the costs of extinguishing the fire in addition to fines or imprisonment (M.G.L. c.48, s.13).

April is the Worst Month for Brush Fires

April is usually the worst month for brush fires. When the snow pack recedes, but before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be strong and unpredictable in April.

Prevent Wildfires By Burning During Wet Snowy Conditions

Prevent permit fires from becoming wildland fires by burning early in the season. Wet and snowy winter conditions hinder the rapid spread of fire on or under the ground. Weather conditions and increased fire danger in spring can lead to many days when burning is not allowed.

Alternatives to Open Burning

Open burning releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, other gases, and solid substances directly into the air, which can contribute to respiratory problems. Disposal of natural materials is never as good for the environment as using them again in a different form. Tree limbs, brush and other forestry debris can be chipped or composted into landscaping material. Check with your local public works or highway department; many have chippers at the municipal recycling center or transfer station and will process debris from homeowners.

Any questions please contact the Montgomery Fire Dept.



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Library News

The difference between winning and losing most often is... not quitting- Walt Disney

February events: Pastel work shop

Feb. 1 at 11 am with Greg Maichack

Learn to paint with pastels in relaxed encouraging workshop. Great for beginners and advance alike.

Basket Weaving with Chris Brown

Ms Brown returns with this popular class teaching novice and advance weavers alike with two baskets. The first is an easy napkin basket on **March 7, 10am –12pm**. The second is Fran's "Berry" Basket on **March 14 & 21 from 10 am—12 om** . Both classes must bring the following supplies: a 5 gallon bucket, clip style clothes pins, measuring tape, pencil, awl, towel, craft knife and scissors. Class size is limited to 12 seats so sign up early in the library by March 2. Fee per basket will range between \$4 to \$8 due on class day.

"Snow Predicted" Oil on canvas.



"Ready for the Snow," was created by George Lucas of Maryland on 1/21/2016:

Why did the Lord give us agility,
If not to evade responsibility? - Ogden Nash

[facebook.com/gracehallmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/gracehallmemorial)

Trustee's meeting

Feb. 20at 6:30pm

Yoga on Wednesdays \$10-

Museum Passes

Old Sturbridge Village

Springfield Quad

Norman Rockwell

Mystic Aquarium

Deerfield Historical Museum

USS Constitution

DCR State Park Pass
MassMoCa

Hours

Tues: 10- 5:30

Thurs: 12-8 **NEW HOURS**

Sat: 9:30-12:30

Contact

Mail

161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085

Phone

413-862-3894

email

Montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com

Website

montgomeryma.gov

wghl.masscat.org

[facebook.com/gracehallmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/gracehallmemorial)

commonwealthcatalog.org

New Items at the Library

Maleficent Mistress of Evil DVD

Followers by Angelo

Long Petal of the

Sea by Allende

Conference of the

Birds by Riggs

All the ways we

say goodbye by

Williams

Plus many more,
come on in and see!

Kids Winter Reading Challenge

Jan.15 to March 31 Montgomery Library

Complete each snow flake to fill up our wall. Drawings for the winner will be on April 4! *Please put your name, age and phone on the back of this form* . Bonus point is you can post on our Facebook page doing one item below!



Read a book with a Color in the title



Read a book by an author whose last name has a "W" in it.



Read a book about a winter sport



Read a book with a recipe(bonus points if you make the recipe!)



Read a book about love, caring or sharing



Read a book that your parents loved a child



Read a book in a series



Read a book that became a movie

Read a Picture book (bonus point if you read it with someone!)



Read a nonfiction book



For more information Montgomery Library at 413-862-3894 or

montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/gracehallmemorial or



www.montgomeryma.gov/library

COUNCIL ON AGING

Serving the Citizens of Montgomery
February/March 2020

Calendar

Tue – Feb 11 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Tue – Feb 25 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Tue – Mar 10 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Tue – Mar 24 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Osteoporosis Exercise Class

Town Hall Friday – 9:30 – 11am

February Birthdays

William Hughes Judy Crean
Robert Talbot Frances Bush
Geraldine Larrabee Thomas Gil

March Birthdays

Wayne Fowles Philip Shaw
George Galipeau Charles Peckham
Pauline Croteau Joyce Dupelle
Charlie Kenyon Joseph Croteau
Helen Allyn Richard Chretien

We are making plans for a Senior Picnic to be held at Strathmore Park this June.

Those of you we were with us last year will be glad to hear that we will be having Sarah the Fiddler and Peppermill Catering helping us plan for a wonderful day at the Park.

A final date along with costs will be developed over the next couple of months.

It has been requested by Elder Affairs that we post the following in our monthly newsletter.

Want to lower your Medicare costs?

On **January 1, 2020** the income and asset limits for the Medicare Savings Programs* increased. If you qualify, these programs will pay your Part B premium and in some cases your Part A and B deductibles, co-pays and Part A premium (if you have one). In addition, you will automatically receive Extra Help, a program that will lower your Medicare Part D premium and co-pays. .

Income and asset limits effective 1-1-20

	Income / month	Assets
Individual	\$1,738	\$15,720
Married couple	\$2,346	\$23,600

Prescription drug co-payments with Extra Help effective 1-1-20

	Per 30-Day supply
Generic	\$3.60
Brand Name	\$8.95

To learn more and to request an application, contact MassHealth at: **1-800-841-2900 or TTY at: 1-800-497-4648**. SHINE can also assist you with the application process. Call us to make an appointment.

Applications are also available on-line at:
<https://tinyurl.com/MassMSP>

Medicare Savings Programs are also called "MassHealth Buy-In" and are administered by MassHealth.

February Zodiac Sign – Aquarius/Pisces
March Zodiac Sign – Pisces/Aries

Flower – Violet/Primrose
Flower – Daffodil

Birthstone – Amethyst
Birthstone- Aquamarine

MEMA – Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

WINTER HEATING SAFETY

The recent extremely cold temperatures have demonstrated the potential dangers associated with utilizing 'alternative' methods to heat your home, particularly if you lose your primary heating source due to a power outage or to lack of fuel. Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. Many of these home fires are caused by the improper use of space heaters, as well as fireplaces and wood stoves. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) advises the following heating and carbon monoxide tips to help stay safe this winter season:

Portable Heaters

- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least three feet away from the heater.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets. Never plug a portable heater into an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn heaters off when going to bed or leaving the room.

Fireplaces

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in the fireplace.
- Put the fire out before going to sleep or leaving the home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least three feet from the home.

Wood Stoves

- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- Make sure the wood stove is three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in the wood stove.
- Put the fire out before going to sleep or leaving the home.

Carbon Monoxide

- When using heaters that require fuel, install a carbon monoxide detector.

This newsletter is partially funded by a grant of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Board Members: Anne-Marie Buikus 862-3257, Jane Thielen 862-4482, Sandy Haas 862-3829
Jean Bush 862-3645, Geraldine Larrabee 862-3884, Darlene Brewster 862-3347
Email: COA@montgomeryma.gov